

Friends' News and Notes

A publication of the Friends of the Merced County Library

Volume 12, Issue 3
June 2020 - September 2020



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SUMMER READING 2020

By Olga Castaneda, Supervising Librarian, and
Alicia Heim, Children's Librarian

If you haven't already checked out what the Merced County Library offers via the web (e-books and audiobooks for phones, e-readers, and other devices, and electronic resources for parents, youth, and adults), it's time! **Starting June 6th**, you can register for Summer Reading 2020, learn the ropes, and keep track of the points you earn at <https://mcl.bookpoints.org/>. The Library is posting a tutorial video to help with online registration. This website will be the focal point for Summer Reading 2020, so bookmark the page!



“The library is resilient—we will weather this storm and come out on the other side.”

Amy Taylor
Merced County Librarian

This year Summer Reading runs from June 6th through August 1st, and it is **open to all ages—from babies to seniors**. Sign up to earn prizes, share book reviews, and enjoy activities and events! The theme is all about discovery, exploration, and investigation: digging deeper into stories, discovering new facts, learning about new places and cultures, and appreciating the science behind our daily lives. It's also a great time to observe and explore the world around us, whether it's virtually or just in our own backyards.

We are excited to bring you weekly online StoryTimes, fun activities to do at home, and some wonderful virtual music, science, magic, and art programs throughout June and July. Stay tuned to our social media pages to learn about upcoming Summer Reading performers. (continuation on p. 3)

The mission of the Friends of the Merced County Library is to enhance, focus public attention on, and generate community support for Library services, facilities, and other needs in Merced County.

The Friends Thank Our Generous Corporate Sponsors



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AUTHOR VISITS

A GREAT START; THE REST TO BE RESCHEDULED

The Spring 2020 Author Series at the Merced County Library opened with “Library Road Trip: Photographing Knowledge,” a presentation by author and noted photographer Robert Dawson. Mr. Dawson spoke at Merced Library on the evening of February 25th, informing and entertaining the 50 attendees with his photographs and tales of libraries around the United States and in other countries. Many of the photos were from his book, *The Public Library*. Donald Barclay of the University of California, Merced, organized the talk, and it was co-sponsored by the Merced County Library and the Friends.

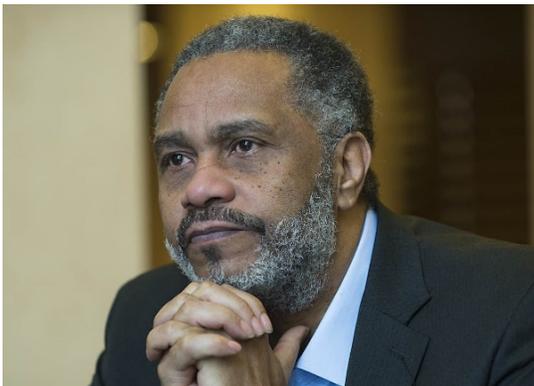


Robert Dawson, February 25th

Photograph by Friedhelm Golz,
Eye 2 Eye Studios

The Covid-19 pandemic put the rest of the series on hold.

The series was to have continued throughout the spring with



Anthony Ray Hinton

talks by authors Stephanie Laska, Anthony Ray Hinton, and Susan Walsh, and with facilitated discussions of Mr. Hinton’s book at different Library branches. Currently the Friends plan to reschedule these author events, including the talk by Mr. Hinton, when public gatherings are again possible. At that time, the Friends will also be looking for an author popular with tweens and teens to visit the Merced County Library. Updated information about author visits will be posted on the Friends’ website:

friendsofthemercedcountylibrary.org.

Memorial Donations

For Phyllis Asturias
Phillip & Carol Hamm

For Eric Robert Leask
Carol Dunham

For Ralph Temple
Phillip & Carol Hamm

Adopt-A-Book Memorials

For Phyllis Asturias
Nancy B. Holmes

For Margaret Bever
Nancy B. Holmes

For Gwendolyn "Gwen" Phares
Don & Kenra Bragonier

For Caryol Roberts
Mary Camper

For Ralph Temple
Don & Kenra Bragonier

Bookmobile Memorials

For Phyllis Asturias
Ruth Wax

For Guy Near
Rick & Karen Albright

For Joan Stribling
Rick & Karen Albright

For Ralph Temple
Ruth Wax

Bookmobile Honorary Donation

For Susan Walsh's FOL
leadership
Rick & Karen Albright

Summer Reading (continued from page 1)

Need some books to fill up your Summer Reading log? Our Zip Book service is available to ship books right to your home (<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/3164/Zip-Books>), and we have added many new titles to our Libby and Cloud Library e-book apps (<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/1904/Apps-at-Your-Library>). We also have access through the summer to **the Enki e-book database and Tumblebooks databases, which feature hundreds of children's e-books and audiobooks.** We are happy to answer your questions about Summer Reading; contact us at 209-385-7434. You can even sign up for a library card over the phone. Dig Deeper with Summer Reading 2020 at the Merced County Library!

DIG DEEPER

MERCED COUNTY LIBRARY

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

JUNE 6TH-AUGUST 1ST

Read	Investigate	Discover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ages can participate! Track reading online Earn prizes Easy access to events from website 	Events for all including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magic Music Art Live Readings & More! 	Library material online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libby by Overdrive Cloud Library Tumble Book Library Tumble Math Teen Book Cloud Audiobook Cloud Enki

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MERCED COUNTY LIBRARY

FOMCL Donations to the Porterville Library

Earlier this year the Porterville Library was lost to arson, and a temporary library was set up. Like FOLs throughout the state, the FOMCL decided to help. Sharon Terry, Manager of the Friends' Bookstore, filled 8 boxes with FOMCL books to donate, and they will be delivered to the temporary library later this year. The Friends also made a monetary donation to support the Porterville Library and the rebuilding effort.

New Bookmobile in 2021

At the FOMCL meeting on September 7, 2017, the Friends voted to save for a second bookmobile as their long-term goal. The proceeds from the Friends' 50th Birthday Party in April 2018 made \$10,000 towards the goal. Since then, many donations to the Friends have been earmarked for a new bookmobile. This goal will become a reality in 2021, thanks to the Friends' savings, the Merced County Library Trust Fund, and a grant awarded to the Library from the California State Library.

The state grant, entitled "Bringing the Library to You: Mobile Library Solutions," is for \$250,000, and it was unanimously accepted by the Merced County Board of Supervisors on March 31, 2020. The Friends agreed to match the grant money with \$25,000 of their long-term savings, and the Merced County Library Trust added \$50,000 in matching funds.

County Librarian Amy Taylor said, "We are working on the consultant contract [for the new bookmobile]. Processes are taking longer due to Covid-19." The new bookmobile must be designed to avoid the flaws that plague the current one. The generator that runs the lights and air conditioning in the current bookmobile shuts down when the weather is very hot, so the current bookmobile cannot be used as much as needed in the summer.

The Friends continue to seek donations for the new bookmobile because the funding to date buys an empty vehicle. "We refer to this as bookmobile enhancement," said Susan Flinspach, FOMCL President. "Our long-term goal of a new bookmobile is not met until it is fully operational and stocked with computers and books." The Friends will consider options for their next long-term goal when the new bookmobile hits the road.

Friends of the Merced County Library

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From the President's Desk

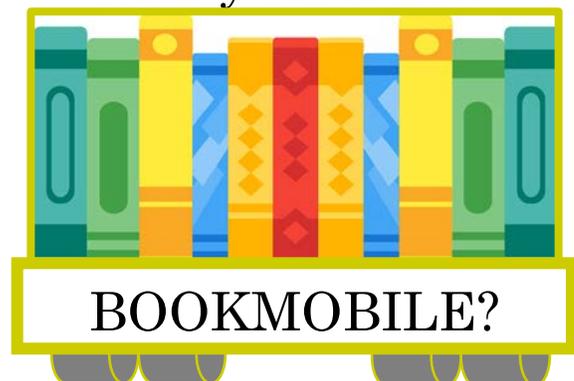
Susan Leigh Flinspach, President

The pandemic has been hard on all of us. We rejoice that our Friends remain healthy and safe, but we grieve that the Merced County Library is closed.

The excitement and energy generated by the new author series was cut short. Our National Library Week Celebration was cancelled. The evening-hours pilot program, just gaining momentum, was halted. Our Friends' Bookstore, located inside Merced Library, has been/will be shut down for months. On some days, the work of the Friends seems lost in the wash of pandemic adversity.

Then Summer Reading 2020 comes along. Still physically closed, the Library extends its virtual hand to people locked in their homes, urging them to reconnect through the written word. Now more than ever, Summer Reading entices us to read and share our reading with one another. Enjoy a novel, picture book, e-book, cookbook, or biography? Then rate it on your reading log, and post a review on the Summer Reading website. Need a new book? Look up the ratings and reviews of others. Watch the Summer Reading performers and events with your family. Summer Reading helps us escape; it helps us laugh; it helps us cope. Summer Reading reminds us that the Library will re-open one day soon.

Ready for a new



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